1:Beaglehole and Beaglehole E-5 (1934-5)1938 Pukapukans

and kept on rough platforms made by laying longitudinal members across the tiebeams of the house. Plaited pandanus satchels (*taleasa*, p. 134) for valued fishhooks and larger satchels of the same type for mains and other items of dress were also kept on the tiebeam platforms.

Plaited pandanus pillows (*ulunga laahasa*, p. 134) and wooden headrests (*ulunga lahea*; fig. 12, *d*) were in occasional use. Most people, however, did not go to the trouble of making a special pillow but used for this purpose any suitable block of wood. Soft driftwood was favorite material, a piece of cork of suitable size and thickness being most prized. Today, the usual headrest is a block of wood inserted into a European pillowcase and packed tight with a thin layer of kapok. This pillow combines a desired hardness with the prestige value of using a European object.

Wooden back rests (*tahe*; fig 12, *c*) were occasionally made in former times. Made of *wahawaa* wood, they were used for resting in a reclining position inside or outside the house.

Insect switches (*uewa*) are in great demand when mosquitoes (*uuwa*) become vicious:

These switches are quickly made by superimposing three sections from the tip end of coconut leaf midribs, each section carrying 10 to 20 leaflets. These are bound together by several transverse turns of fiber from the coconut leaf midrib or by passing two leaflets from the bottom midrib around the several midribs in opposite directions and tying the ends together with overhand knots. The switch is discarded when the leaflets become dry.

Brooms (*uelewale*) made from leaflet midribs are in common use to sweep up rubbish from the floor of dwelling or cook houses.

A short broom (*uelewale tamaki*, Clapp) is made of midribs (*laa*) stripped from coconut leaflets and dried in the sun. These are caught about 1 inch from the proximal end in a three-ply braid of pandanus material (*fito*) about ½ inch wide. The projecting midrib ends are bent over and braided with one of the *fito* plies as a single ply. The braiding is continued for about 25 inches; for this length, about 170 midribs are required. When all the midribs have been added, the braiding is continued for about 6 inches and fastened with an overhand knot (*nahapona*). Starting with the commencement end, the braiding is rolled (*tupetupe*) on itself to form a convenient bundle of midribs. The free end of the braid is wound around the butt ends (*uaiiluuli*) of the midribs and fastened with an overhand knot. The distal ends of the midribs are trimmed off to make bristles about 2 feet long.

A large broom (*uelewale uaka*) for sweeping the ground outside the houses is made from hard coconut midribs that have dried on the leaflets. The midribs are gathered together in the hand and spaced evenly around the end of a long handle, generally a length of *tapanga* wood about 4 feet long. The butt ends of the midribs are fastened to the handle with transverse turns of sennit, commencement and finishing ends being buried underneath the turns.

Lighting inside the dwelling house is usually provided by burning a few dry coconut shells on the floor. Today kerosene lanterns are fairly common,

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354 372 especially for evening prayers and for all-night vigils over a corpse. Out-of-doors light, on dark nights of the moon, is provided by small coconut-shell fires. When dry shells are plentiful a number of half shells are strung together on a strip of pandanus material (*lito*) about 2 to 3 feet long by passing one end of the pandanus strip through the soft eyehole of the half shell. Two parallel rows of these shells are placed on the ground and a few dry shells rested on top of the two rows. The shells are lit at the windward end with a *tooma* torch and burn with a fierce flame. Such a firelight torch of dry coconut shells is termed *loma ngaipu*.

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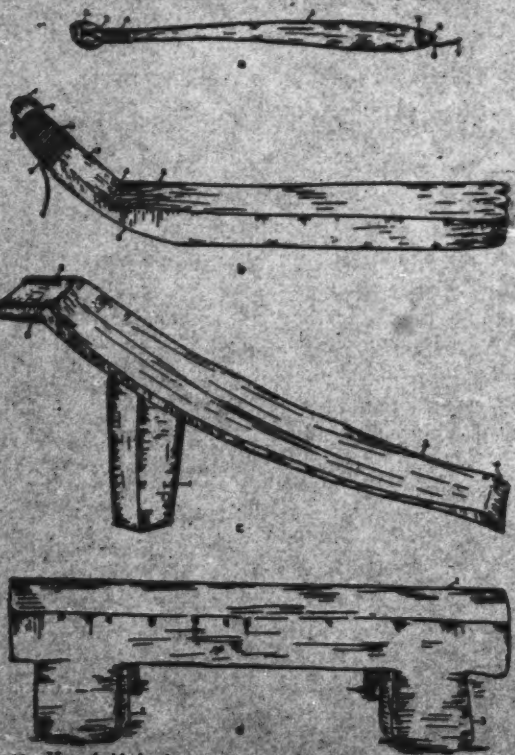

FIGURE 52.—Household implements. *a*, scraper (*vaiga*) (CB127) for removing husk in making coconut water container: handle of *ngaugia* wood (1) 13½ inches long, 1 inch thick at proximal end, and ⅜ inch thick at distal end; under surface of handle slightly concave longitudinally; distal end of handle inserted into carefully chipped hole